

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9th June 2015

LEISURE SERVICES BRIEFING REPORT: STAGE 1

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Pat Witherspoon, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	John Godwin, Head of Leisure and Cultural Services
Ward(s) Affected	No specific ward relevance.
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

This report provides further information about the scope that was provided by Officers to external consultants regarding the future operation of Leisure Services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE:

- 1) the report be noted; and**
- 2) to identify relevant issues arising from this report which require further scrutiny, if any, in relation to the future operation of leisure services.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Background

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee launched a Task Group review of the Abbey Stadium in 2013. Following consideration of the findings from this review it was agreed by the Executive Committee in June 2014 that:
 - a) the Council should explore the options for a leisure trust to manage some or all of its facilities, including the Abbey Stadium; and
 - b) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be given the opportunity to pre-scrutinise any final business case relating to the future operation of some or all of the Council's leisure facilities, including the Abbey Stadium, prior to its submission to the Executive Committee.
- 3.2 In April 2015 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a completed scoping document which proposed that a Task Group review should be launched to investigate both current service provision and future options for the delivery of leisure services in the Borough. The Committee did not eventually decide to launch a Task Group review of this subject. However, it was agreed that detailed pre-scrutiny of an item listed on the Executive Work Programme, entitled '*Review of*

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Operation of Leisure Services", should be adopted in line with previous decisions on this subject.

- 3.3 The Committee agreed to undertake this pre-scrutiny work in stages as whilst Members felt that every element of the debate was important, they agreed it would not be appropriate for all Officers to be present at every meeting due to the potential for conflicts of interest:

Meeting 1: To invite the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services to the next meeting of the Committee to present the terms of reference and specification issued to external consultants regarding the future operation of leisure services.

Meeting 2: To invite the consultants who had been commissioned to produce a report to attend the subsequent meeting of the Committee to discuss their findings.

Meeting 3: To consider the final *Review of Operation of Leisure Services* report and to make recommendations to the Executive Committee on this subject (if considered appropriate).

- 3.4 This report comprises the first stage of the pre-scrutiny process. Contained within the report is further information about the specification that Officers provided to external consultants. The attached documents are:

Appendix 1 – Email setting out the Council's requirements.

Appendix 2 – The consultants' offer.

- 3.5 Members are asked to note that if there is a desire to continue with the phased approach proposed in April an additional meeting of the Committee will need to take place in late June. This is because a date has now been set for the consideration of the *Review of Operation of Leisure Services* by the Executive Committee on 14th July and there is only one other scheduled meeting due to take place prior to that date.

Financial Implications

- 3.6 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

Legal Implications

- 3.7 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.8 The appendices relate to scope for consideration of the future operation of leisure services.

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Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.9 No direct customer or equality and diversity implications have been identified for this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

No risks have been identified.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Email setting out the Council’s requirements.

Appendix 2 - . The consultants’ offer.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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